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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
ANTHONY J. ROMANELLO, ICMA-CM

April 23, 2009

U.S. Congressman Robert Wittman
1318 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wittman:

As you witnessed in your recent visit to Stafford, our community is experiencing critical regional infrastructure failures on U.S. Route 17. I am writing on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to request your assistance in obtaining federal resources to fund necessary improvements to this important corridor.

Stafford, as one of Virginia's fastest growing localities, is working to meet the demands of a changing region. Just 25 miles south of the Capitol Beltway, our exceptional quality of life has attracted many young families from Northern Virginia, increasing our population to over 125,000 residents. We truly have many historical and physical attributes that continue to make Stafford appealing, and we wish to maximize our potential by continuing to work with you as our federal representative.

To this end, we continue to make transportation improvements a high priority pursuit in an effort to improve our community. Stafford County residents have also spoken on this matter, last fall passing the County's first ever transportation bond referendum. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors has created two service districts which raise funds and dedicate them to road improvements on major corridors in our community.

To further assist us in efforts to improve U.S. Route 17, we respectfully request your assistance in gaining funding from the reauthorization of Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The Warrenton Road, US-17, improvement project, from McLane Drive to Stafford Lakes Parkway, VDOT UPC 71774, is a prime candidate for federal funding, as the facility is in the National Highway System. Additionally, as you know, federal dollars were allocated to this project in 2004 by Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis and U.S. Senator John Warner.

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Warrenton Road, US-17 is a regionally significant route, carrying an annual average of 43,000 vehicles per day with nearly 20% of the traffic being comprised of trucks and buses. The current level of service within the project termini is D. Frequent congestion, not only on this facility, but also on Interstate 95, causes delay and unsafe conditions for motorists. The improvement project will result in improved capacity and safety. Completion also enables the County to more quickly live its approved *Southern Gateway Redevelopment Vision*.

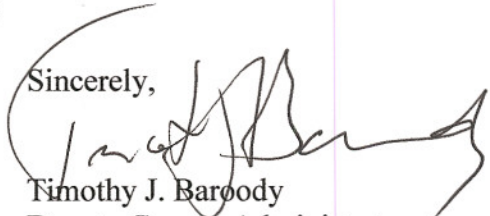
The project is in VDOT's current Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP), and preliminary engineering is underway. This project has received community input as required for inclusion in the Six-Year Improvement Program. According to the revised FY2009-FY2014 SYIP adopted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board on February 13, 2009, the \$47 million project has, even with local and private contributions, an approximate \$30 million deficiency.

The project is also in the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Plan and its 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan. It is also in VDOT's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. Lastly, the attached Resolution R09-198 is a statement of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors support for the Warrenton Road, US-17, as the County's number one priority.

We are hopeful that you will assist our community, again, by championing this critical infrastructure project through the transportation reauthorization process, and advocating for an additional \$10 million in federal support. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Baroody
Deputy County Administrator